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THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 11 NO. 6

JULY 2008

SPECIAL AWARDS CELEBRATION ISSUE

**DONA CRUCIANI**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
AWARD

These Community Service Awards honor an individual chosen by the President or E.D. of PA Diversity Network from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender community for their initiative and commitment to a broad range of successful efforts to advance tolerance and equality.

Dona Cruciani has served this community with her work creating GLOW at PPL and helping to lead the successful effort to get Domestic Partner benefits at PPL. It was a job that took years and Dona was on it at every step. She has also served on the PA-GALA Board, was the liaison for the Allentown Democratic Party to PA-GALA and the GLBT Community. She ran successfully as an out delegate to the 2004 National Democratic Convention and went to the Convention representing the Pennsylvania and the entire US GLBT Community. She has brought major speakers to the community. She has been part of the State Democratic Committee, has been part of every local GLBT event, and currently serves as an openly gay member of the Allentown Human Relations Commission.

**STEVE LIBBY**
PRESIDENTS
AWARD

William F. Bender - organized a community response to the AIDS epidemic in 1983. In 1984, he worked with area clergy and lay board members of the Reading Urban Ministries to sponsor a community-based Berks AIDS service organization, offering the first "Buddy Trainings" out of his own home. In 1985, Berks AIDS Health Crisis was established first as a volunteer and later as a staffed grant driven group. Bill was the Board Chair--1985-1992 & 2004-2007 and continues to be a board member of Berks AIDS Health Crisis, Berks AIDS Network and Co-County Wellness Services. From 1992-1996, he was a board member for the Rainbow Home of Berks County. In 2005, he worked with the Berks County Community Foundation to establish the Diversity Alliance Fund.

The Honor Award: This award honors individuals from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender community for longtime activism (more than ten years) in support of the GLBT community in the Lehigh Valley or Berks County.

Allyson Diane Hamm -- has been the Chair of Pride in 2000 and Co-Chair in 2001. She served on the PA-GALA Board for almost ten years. She was one of the top leaders of the effort to pass the Allentown Ordinance and beat the referendum. She helped to found the local interweave group at UUCLV, she is a HAVEN facilitator and has served on the Haven Board, she is part of the National Interweave Organization, she ran as an openly Bisexual candidate for State Democrat Committee and won the County election with the second highest number of votes (6 were elected). She has served on the Allentown Human Relations Commission as the Vice Chair and a member of the executive Committee since 2001 and she ran the campaign of the most progressive member of Lehigh County Council. She has served on many other boards and committees as well. Allyson has registered more people to vote, gotten more signatures on candidate petitions and gotten more people to the polls than all of us put together.

Stephen Libby has been actively serving the GLBT community in some of the most creative ways ever for over 12 years. Steve has managed to unite the partying community with the political community in just about every thing he does - from his Documentary Film Company that produced the Lavender Lens movies and informational movies about the transgender and college GLBT communities, to the communities, to the spectacularly glossy success of Gaydar that made it fun to read about activism. Steve is always there, and he has always made his efforts fundraisers for local community groups - everyone of them - Pride, PA Diversity, PA-GALA, the Gay Men's Chorus, Haven, Fact you name it. And he can write a funny VGP column in like ten minutes. Think of how much more boring our community would be if we didn't have Steve Libby.

**WILLIAM BENDER**
HONOR AWARD**ALLYSON DIANE**
HAMM
HONOR AWARD

Reading

**READING PRIDE
JULY 20**

Reading Pride Celebration, Sunday, July 20, at Centre Park, from 12 noon - 6pm.. Admission is \$2.00 per person. Read about it on page 8.

GLV PRIDE FESTIVAL AUGUST 17

The Greater Lehigh Valley Pride in the Park Festival will be Sunday, August 17 in Cedar Beach Park in Allentown.. Admission is \$2.00 per person. Read about it on page 8.



BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.

What's That About?

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SCOTTY IN THE CITY

By Scott Laubner

Congratulations to all the award winners.



Readers, write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.



PA DIVERSITY NETWORK HOSTS AWARDS CELEBRATION

Pennsylvania Diversity Network hosted the first annual GLBT Community Awards Celebration honoring individuals in both the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County, who have served the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) community through activism, advocacy, volunteerism and leadership, on June 17th, in the Hamilton Room of the at the Allentown Brew Works, 812 Hamilton Street, Allentown, during a special evening party.

Over 100 people attended, Mayor of Allentown Ed Pawlowski, County Commissioner Gloria Hamm, Chair of the PA State Human Relations Commission Stephen Glassman who delivered greetings from Governor Ed Rendell, Ari Mittleman representing Senator Bob Casey, and Ellen Kern representing State Senator Pat Browne. Allentown City Councilman Mike Donovan also stopped by.

Besides framed citations and trophies from PA Diversity Network for award winners; letters of congratulation from both State Senator Pat Browne and State Representative Jennifer Mann were presented to the honorees. Fabulous hors d'oeuvres, a pasta bar, a silent auction and the PA Diversity Photo Project added to the event.

OPENING REMARKS BY PDN EXEC. DIRECTOR LIZ BRADBURY

This is an historic moment in our community, not only for this important first annual awards ceremony honoring those who have served our community - many of them for years, whose recognition is long overdue... but because today, this is the first day in history of the United States, that any same-sex couple in the United States could obtain a marriage license and get legally married in California.

Everyone of those local PA couples in our Photo Project, is seen by Pennsylvania as strangers to one-another...but today, we can legally marry in California and this is the first domino in the row to achieve equality and fairness.

And we all have to support the fair-minded workers in California, because they will be facing a Constitutional Amendment in November that could tear these rights away once again.

We have to band together and financially support this fight in California, just as we would fight any effort to Constitutionally ban the equal rights of any minority in this land.

Though voting on whether or not a group of people should have civil rights is wrong - and un-American, and contrary to every freedom this Nation stands for, that's what these conservatives have caused to happen in California, and we have to fight it.

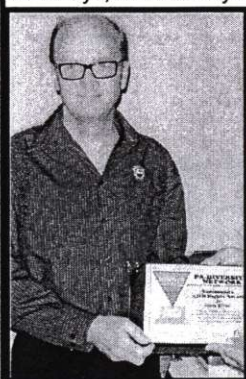
We have to keep this legal right in place as the beginning of the end of our segregation from equality.

bringing the Art Booth to Pride in the Park, fighting the referendum to remove the anti-discrimination ordinance six years ago, being a long time HAVEN facilitator, including organizing Haven proms and events just last month.

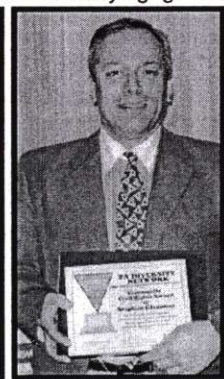
THE COMMUNITY CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD: THIS AWARD HONORS ELECTED OR APPOINTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (FORMER OR CURRENTLY SERVING) WHO HAVE SHOWN A CONSISTENT RECORD OF SUPPORT FOR EQUALITY OF GLBT CIVIL RIGHTS. WE HAVE TWO PEOPLE WHO ARE TO BE HONORED:

-- **Earl David Ball** an out and proud openly gay minister, who takes every chance he can to introduce people to his HUSBAND of 31 years Tim, Earl was one of the prime leaders in securing the passage of the non-discrimination ordinance in Easton, working tirelessly to elect officials who would sponsor and pass the legislation, helping to get the legislation crafted, and serving as an openly gay appointed Human Relations Commissioner on the very first Commission for the City of Easton. The GLBT citizens of Easton would not have legal protection from discrimination were it not for the work of Commissioner Earl Ball. --

-- **Stephen Glassman** is the highest ranked openly gay official in the State of Pennsylvania serving as the Chair of the State Human Relations Commission - which is a full time job and also a volunteer job. Steve has been working for the rights and equality of GLBT people in PA since he was in on the beginning of organizations like SPARC and Common Roads. Now, as the Commission Chair he can be relied on to make things happen when efforts toward equality and fairness are stalled. I know, I've been there when he has taken on those who just don't get it, whether in Harrisburg, or in city governments, or regarding law enforcement, or legislation. Recently, I was in a meeting when Steve was calmly convincing a group of officials that they needed to change their ways, a voice in my head was saying - gee I'm glad he's here.



EARL BALL



STEPHEN GLASSMAN



ALLENTOWN MAYOR ED PAWLOWSKI

The Transgender Activism Award: This award honors transgender activists residing or serving within the Lehigh Valley or Berks County who work for the rights of the transgender community.

Rachel Thompson has been an outspoken advocate, writer, organizer and leader for the Transgender Community and with many GLBT groups, just some of her key efforts include



RACHEL THOMPSON

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

**PATTI MITTLEMAN**

The Faith Community Activism Award: This award honors individuals from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Allied community who work with and between faith communities and organizations to promote equality and tolerance of GLBT community members within the context of faith and religion.

Patti Mittleman -- Since 1994, Patti Mittleman, the Jewish Chaplain and Hillel Director at Muhlenberg College, has been an active ally for GLBT equality. In the mid-1990's, at a time when there was little "lesbian and gay" activism at Muhlenberg, Patti worked with a group of committed students to form the first gay and lesbian group on campus. She has been a strong and loud voice for GLBT equality and HIV/AIDS awareness on campus since the mid-1990's and she continues to support GLBT students through faith outreach and general support every day.

Rev. Beth Goudy -- There is no doubt that Beth Goudy is a leader of the local GLBT Faith Community. Her efforts with the Metropolitan Community Church to outreach into the Community for GLBT equality include the National Freedom to Marry Celebrations and actions, writing progressive faith columns for the Morning Call, speaking out in ecumenical gathering at times when the GLBT voice needs to be heard, counseling those in the community in crisis, inclusive efforts toward racial and ethnic diversity, and a supreme effort to involve and welcome all the other local GLBT organizations in events, efforts, and outreach at MCC. When we successfully fought the anti-GLBT referendum in Allentown, Beth was there for every part - not only typing faster than lightning, but taking on some of the hardest, grimmest jobs - like standing outside churches asking people to decline to sign. She was always there.

**REV. BETH GOUDY****BILL SANDERS**

THE COMMUNITY ARTS AWARD:

This award honors Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender individuals from the Lehigh Valley or Berks County for work in the arts (art, literature, music, or theater) to promote GLBT equality, awareness, visibility, or education.

Bill Sanders -- The Artistic Director of Civic Theater Bill Sanders has brought GLBT works to the community theater forefront in Allentown continuously for many years. OK sure, a heck of a lot of community theater in the US is directed by gay men, but are they out gay men, really really out? So out that they announce it in the program of an excellent and mostly naked production of Love Valor and Compassion? With the PDN photo project in the Lobby - with Bill and Jason in one of the pictures...that's out. From the Normal Heart to the awe inspiring Angels in America and most recently Love! Valor! Compassion! and others Bill is one of our most important voices to the larger community through art.

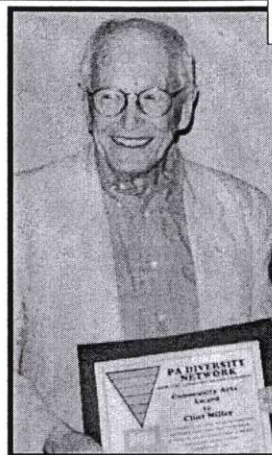
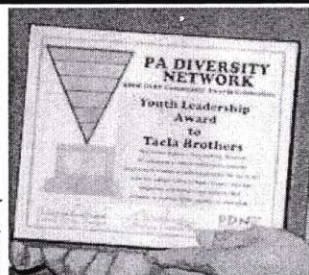
Sue Sneeringer -- Besides Sue's column Sooz Views in the Valley Gay Press, Reading resident Sue Sneeringer has been a strong and steady force in the Arts Community, bringing GLBT and progressive themed plays to both Berks County and the Lehigh Valley. Places like the Reading Community Theater and Theater Outlet have featured works she wrote and plays she directed.

Clint Miller -- Is the musical director of the Gay Men's Chorus, bringing us great music with the guys, in their wonderful concerts. But Clint has also been around as an out activist working for equal rights in Allentown since the very first effort in favor of legal anti-discrimination laws in the 1970s. In those days, the City Council members demanded every speaker's name, so they could harass the activists later, but didn't let them speak in the meeting. Clint was there. And he's still here, and it's about time he was honored!

The Youth Leadership Award:

This award honors a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Allied youth leader/activist (high school student or individual under the age of 18) from the Lehigh Valley or Berks County who has organized activities/events/projects that promote or further GLBT equality or education.

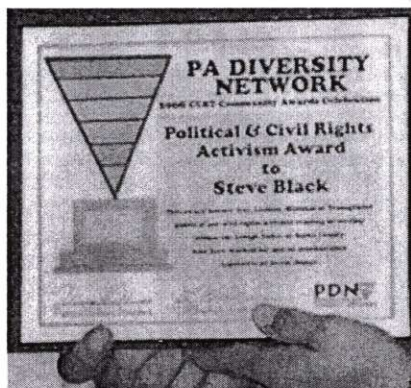
Taela Brothers -- Taela Brothers is a regular member of the MCCLV Choir, B.A.S.I.C., and is a part of the newly-formed MCCLV theater company, recently sharing her singing and acting talents in their first launch/preview performances. She is launch/preview performances. She is slated to play a leading role in one of their upcoming shows of the first season. She is also very involved at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts, as well as other activities at MCCLV. She is an amazing young woman and young talent.

**CLINT MILLER****SUE SNEERINGER****TAELO BROTHERS**

THE POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISM AWARD:

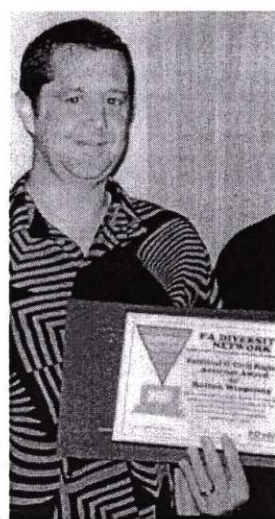
This award honors Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender political and civil rights activists residing or serving within the Lehigh Valley or Berks County.

Steve Black began The Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance PA-GALA in 1997 after several years of local political activism. He worked tirelessly on the State Hate Crimes Bill to include sexual orientation and gender identity and organized its passage. It was the first piece of legislation in PA that even recognized the GLBT community. Before, in the law, we did not exist. He ran PA-GALA for ten years providing essential pro-GLBT equality voter information and helped to establish the 15th Congressional district as the 3rd largest concentration of GLBTA voters in the state - and demonstrated how powerful our vote could be causing both Democrat and Republican candidates to seek endorsements from PA-GALA. The passage of both Allentown's Law and Easton's Law happened in part because of Steve's work with PA-GALA.



STEVE BLACK

CHECK OUT A HUGE PHOTO ALBUM OF THE EVENT AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

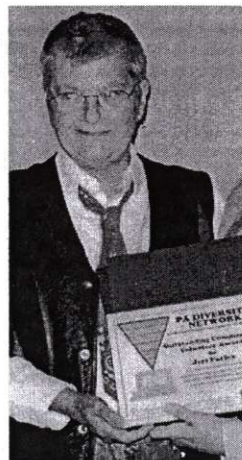


BOLTON WINPENNY

Bolton Winpenny is Publisher of Panzee Press. Bolton Winpenny began his magazine just a short time ago, but over the last year Bolton has created a fierce tool to bring important civil rights information to our entire community. Panzee, which is based in the Central part of the state and is a unique voice, has a huge outreach into not only Berks County and the Lehigh Valley but as far as the Poconos and as South as Baltimore. Bolton attended every meeting and rally held to fight the Constitutional Amendment and used Panzee to call on others to do so. He called me one day and suggested we use the Photo Project as a lobbying tool in Harrisburg. In one day, he took the Photo Project files and made them into the Panzee issue that featured every one of the 225 photos, paying for the production himself. Two days later, every state Representative and every State Senator had a copy of the Photo Project and suddenly the Amendment was not just about some nebulous them any more, it was about real people... it was soon after that the Senate tabled the bill.

The Outstanding Community Volunteer Award: This award honors volunteers from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender community who exhibit strong commitment to the goals and objectives of their organization.

Jeri Farley -- Jeri Farley has been an active force in the GLBT Community of Berks County for two decades. Back when we were delivering the old PA-GALA Voters Guides 12 years ago - it was Jeri who volunteered to be in charge of giving them out in Berks. She's been part of the Railmen for many years, an organization with a leather presence and a giving spirit - the Railmen provide contributions to people who need health care, and asks no recognition for it. She was in on the first meeting of Reading Pride and now Jeri is serving on the Reading Pride Celebration Board, having helped to organize last years successful event and currently working of the event for this year.



JERY FARLEY

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons check the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com.



SOOZ VIEWS ⁵

By Sue Sneringer

CALIFORNIA

The question of marriage equality for our community has propelled us back into the spotlight in the coming presidential election. I was beginning to wonder if we'd have an impact this time as a voting block. The California ruling changes all that. Gives back the wedge issue to the far right, too. You knew it would be something, since McCain is anti-choice and they can "rest easy" on that one and thus create a distraction from the war, the economy, the environment and other big ticket items when needed, especially by McCain.

Like everyone who's ever donated to advance our cause, I receive a solicitation from the Human Rights Coalition about every two months. (It amazes me how much of the donation dollar gets spent trying to solicit more donations when many, like me, have limited \$\$ to give and wouldn't once a year then be more than sufficient?) I haven't given HRC any money for awhile. I find them too moderate, while surely recognizing the need to have them in place as a lobbying force. I do, however, have their little equal sign bumpersticker on my car. That IS the point, after all, isn't it? The fight is about securing EQUAL RIGHTS. Calling it marriage is an important distinction then, too, I suppose. The history of the institution should give us all pause and that's why domestic partnership suffices for me. But if the straight folks are in that soup then we should be, too, at least until some better way of defining the whole damn thing comes along.

Now gay rumors around Obama have moved beyond the grocery store tabloid phase and some of the progressive talking heads are outraged (OUTRAGED, I tell you!) that the idiot peddling them is given airtime by any "serious news organization" (put in quotes because I doubt one exists anymore...). But Randi Rhodes and her callers are quick to jump on the veracity of the accuser as the thing about which we should be upset. Not the homophobia inherent in the notion that a same-sex infidelity in any candidate's past would be any more cause for concern than that one with the opposite sex (though why we should care about either escapes me). But, then, Randi also thought it was okay to call Hillary Clinton and Geraldine Ferraro "fucking whores" in a "standup" routine so we shouldn't really be surprised at that response. Fool me once, Randi...

These two aspects of our place in the political discourse are inextricably linked, of course. They are tied to the still too prevalent notion that we are abnormal and, therefore, to be tolerated, certainly not recognized on that equal footing we want and need and DESERVE. We change that, I think, by stepping forward, always, and refusing to allow others to define us. We don't need to be perfect in that process either. None of the straight folks are, after all. We are a voting block that cannot be denied. Even though we may disagree amongst ourselves from time to time about how that power is best used. That's as it should be. In this election or any other.

Congratulations to Tracy Letts' and AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY and all the Tony winners this week. For once it was a very good year for Broadway. And so it would seem that CHANGE is happening all over, hopefully a harbinger of things to come in November, too!

ALLENTOWN BREW WORKS

Every Tuesday in June - Doggie "Yappy" Hour Man's (and Woman's) Best Friend - Your dog or your beer? The Allentown Brew Works says - "why choose?!" From 5-8 pm on the patio and bring your dog to the Brew Works Doggie "Yappy" Hour, featuring "Muttinis" for humans and a special doggie menu from Noah's Biscuit Barn & Bakery for your best friend. A portion of every Muttini purchased will go to Peacable Kingdom, a no kill animal shelter.

Martini Club Gathering Night - The Martini Club is Now Hotter than Ever! Specials and discounts offered 7 days a week! This event benefits in part - GLV Pride and FACT

THE REGULAR FORMAT OF THE VALLEY GAY PRESS WILL BE BACK IN JULY THIS ISSUE HONORS THE JUNE 17TH PDN AWARD WINNERS

LGBTQ Support Group at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com VGP Drop-Off spot.

GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435. GLORA is a non-profit, social group for men and women, singles or couples.

Spectrum in Reading is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18 - Contact Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

Gay & Lesbian Episcopalians & Friends meets regularly at Christ Episcopal Church at 435 Court Street, Reading, PA For info contact Dwayne Messenger through www.berksglief.org.

Berks Gay Men's Social Group has many events - including a Saturday in December, with Gay comedian Eddie Sarfaty will raise money that night for Broadway Cares and PA Diversity Network. This night the ladies are also welcome! To find out more about BGMSG email berksgmsg@aol.com

PFLAG-Meeting Dates: Allentown: July 1, Aug 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2 **Dec. 4 Monroe:** Aug. 1, October 3, December 5 **Reading:** Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18

HAVEN MEETINGS: every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20.

Lehigh Valley Bears meet at the Mooselounge upstairs at the Stonewall 28 N 10th St. in Allentown, at around 8 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Contact Ira Fine at: iramfine@aol.com or 610-767-7363 for information.

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. **Tennis, Volleyball, Bowling, Racquetball.** Email: info@gloss.org. Website: www.gloss.org.

PDN LIST OF 2008 EVENTS:

July 20 -- PDN will participate in Reading Pride's Reading Pride Celebration 2008
August 17 -- PDN will participate in Greater Lehigh Valley Pride's Pride in the Park Festival
October 16 -- PDN Executive Director Liz Bradbury will do a presentation on Gay History at the Pottsville PFLAG meeting. **October, 2008** -- 5K Breast Cancer Classic, PDN will have a team with a great breakfast at the PDN headquarters.
November, 2008 -- PDN Bingo
November 15 -- 4th Annual PDN Holiday Art Show
December 2008 -- Rainbow Families Christmas Party with MCCLV
December 2008 -- Berks Gay Men's Social Group Party and Comedy Night - benefits Broadway Cares and PDN

6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, **AIDS Outreach**-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- see **FACT**

ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

BGMSG - Berks County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksbgmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

CUUPS -- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV. uucv_cuups@yahoo.com

Enigma Players-- qacres@prolog.net

equal@agere- email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

Gaydar Magazine -- www.gaydarmagazine.com
GLEE at Air Products

GLEF - Gay and Lesbian Episcopalians in Berks County Christ Episcopal Church, in Reading, 610-374-8269, email info@berksglef.org,
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet,

GLORA - Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info @ gloss.org

GLOW- at PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF- Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBT group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.com www.uucvpa.org 610-866-7652

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com, <http://www.mccclv.org> 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre- 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org



YVONNE FREY-OPPENHEIMER



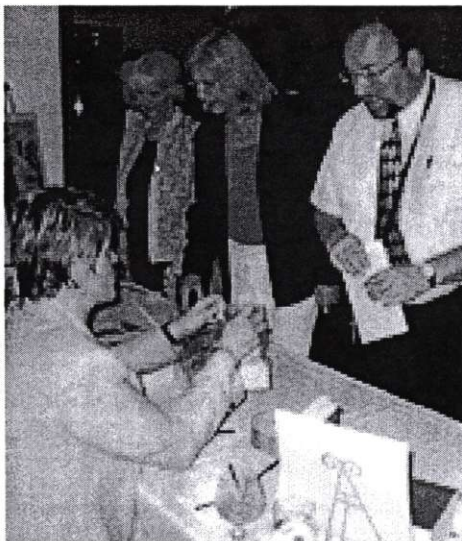
DON AND MELINDA KOHN

The Community Ally Award:

This award honors individuals from the community for longtime activism in support of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender community in the Lehigh Valley or Berks County. This is our highest Ally award.

Yvonne Frey-Oppenheimer -- Yvonne is the leader of Reading PFLAG, and it really happens because of her. As a community ally, Yvonne has been present at every GLBT event in the Berks area in the last few years, lending strong and consistent support.

Don and Melinda Kohn are the strongest allies a community could have. Besides being the leaders of PFLAG, Don has served on numerous boards including HAVEN and the Freedom to Marry Day Committee. Melinda served on the PA Diversity Network Board until just a few months ago, there she created the format for the PDN web site which is now the largest GLBT Friendly Web Site in the State. Don and Melinda run the PFLAG hotline and have been present at monthly PFLAG meetings for 10 years. There is also no effort in the local GLBT community that Don and Melinda have not been part of. From underwriting Haven's prom to making scarfs for Freedom to Marry Demonstrators, they have been there. They are the PFLAG parents ...and soon...they are about to become PFLAG grandparents!



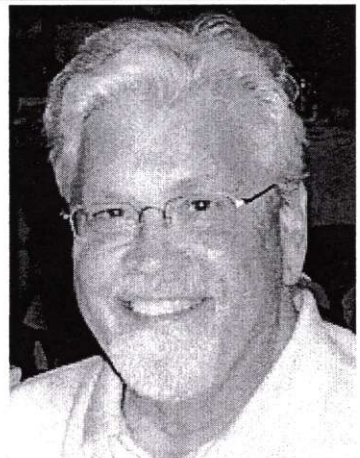
**SEE A LARGE
ALBUM
OF PHOTOS
OF THIS
EVENT AT
WWW.
PADIVERSITY.ORG**

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org
Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.pridelv.org>
Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/lvpsa/whatpsa.htm
Quakers-LV Friends Meeting-Rt 512 N of Rte 22 Bethlehem, Worship 9:30am. 610-691-3411.
RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.
Rainbow Families - donniearluca@msn.com
Ren - Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org
Reading P-FLAG - 610-967-5219
Reading Pride - Festival in Reading www.readingpridecelebration.org
SC Sanctuary Counseling G:BT Support Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com
Safe Space - At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973
Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org
Wachovia-GALEA - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com



SHAWN BAUSHER

Shawn Bausher -- Shawn Bausher is the current president of Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley and with the help of the current Pride Board has led the Pride organization in a stronger more inclusive direction reaching out and involving the entire community in an open and supportive way. Hard decisions had to be made about Pride last year, and they were done with intelligence, grace and major success. Thanks, Shawn!!!



RICH SPANGLER

The Community Leadership Award:

This award honors individuals from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender community who exemplify strong leadership of a GLBT community organization working within the Lehigh Valley or Berks County.

Richard Spangler -- Rich and his partner Ben Renkus have become a strong presence in the Berks GLBT Community. Rich is the President of Reading Pride Celebration and has seen to the dozens of details that helped the organization achieve last year's successful festival. He has worked on many fundraisers and events, including both events at the Hotel Stirling - in so many ways they are too numerous to mention. Reading Pride Celebration runs so well in great part to Rich Spangler.

**PHOTOS IN THIS
ISSUE ARE BY
LAURA GUTIERREZ,
ANNE HUEY, LIZ BRADBURY,
AND KIM HENNIG**

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

Steve's Column will be back next month - Steve Congratulates all the award winners and we congratulate Steve!!!!



PlanetParenthood Congratulates all the Award Winners and will be back next month

THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE IN THE PARK FESTIVAL WILL BE, SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

in Cedar Beach Park in Allentown. Admission is \$2.00 per person. The event usually hosts 5000 attendees and will include over 75 merchants, artisans, business services, community groups, as well as games and live entertainment. Festival highlights include: Art Gallery & Raffle, Doggie Drag Show, The Pride Pub, KidsSpace. Entertainment to feature: Ultra Nate, trailblazing dance artist, Nemesis Rising, LOGO's openly gay twin duo, God-des and She, lesbian hip hop stars, Christine Havrilla, indie folk stars. Visit www.prideglv.org for artist bios, booth applications, vendor information and complete details. Pride GLV is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to work a variety of tasks leading up to and on the day of Pride in the Park 2008: email volunteer coordinator Matt Phillips at volunteers@prideglv.org.

READING PRIDE ANNOUNCES WEEKEND CELEBRATION

Reading Pride Celebration has scheduled an entire weekend of activities open to the public to help celebrate unity and diversity within the LGBT community of Berks County. The celebration of pride begins on Friday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Schmidt Training and Technology Center of Reading Area Community College, located at 10 South 2nd Street in Reading, with a special screening of "Jim in Bold". The film, which examines the many complicated issues facing gay and lesbian teens, draws on the significant difficulties and harassment faced by Lebanon native, Jim Wheeler, whose suicide was the result of tolerated homophobia. The night's special guest will be Malcolm Lazin, Executive Producer of "Jim In Bold" and also the Executive Director of Equality Forum. There will be a reception with light refreshments following the film. There is no charge to attend, however, donations will gladly be accepted.

Saturday, July 19, will feature Miss Drag All Star Reading Pride, a KinCade Daniels Entertainment Production and an official preliminary to Miss Drag All-Star Pennsylvania 2008. The event will take at the Red Star Saloon, 11 South 10th Street in Reading at 9:30 p.m. and will feature 2 exciting pageants in 1 entertaining night: Miss Drag All-Star Reading Pride and King of Reading Pride.

Entertainment on stage at Reading Pride Celebration on Sunday, July 20, at Centre Park, which will take place from 12 noon - 6pm includes: The talents of singer/songwriter Tom Goss, vocalist Brian Gibson, comedian Lisa Kaplan, and singer/songwriter Jo Braithwaite. There will also be a variety of food vendors, local businesses, and nonprofit organizations sharing their information. There is a \$2.00 admission charge, per person, 12 and older, which includes entry to the festival and a pride flag. Reading Pride Celebration will wrap up its weekend with a **Pride After Party**, starting at 6pm. The location will be announced during the pride festival. To volunteer for Reading Pride Celebration, please send an email to RB1502@aol.com.

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Ask a "Family" Lawyer By Attorney Kate Lynn

Dear Kate, My boyfriend is obsessed with shopping for and packing disaster kits for our cars and home. He is constantly worrying about "what might happen." We live in Pennsylvania. Aren't his concerns a little extreme? **Signed, Optimism Always Prevails over Negativity**

Dear OAP, It is Hurricane Season in Florida. This time of year brings back many memories for me, most of which are colored by days of no power, no air conditioning, no gasoline and lots of neighborhood clean up in our south Florida community!

In 2004 and 2005 my home and my business in Palm Beach County, Florida were impacted directly by five major hurricanes: Charley, Frances, Jeanne, Rita, and Wilma. The impact of these natural disasters was lessened by preparation steps that we had taken in advance. Given 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and the 2007 Southern California wildfires, it is important that all of us develop disaster readiness and preparedness plans. These plans should include family and friends that live apart from us. The easiest place to begin is to talk with your family. Your family plan should include a meeting place in the event of an emergency or an evacuation. You may want to choose two meeting places: in-state and out-of-state. Additionally, select an out-of-state contact person. It is often easier to call someone out of state than a local number during an emergency. When the hurricanes hit and we had no power or land lines, we could occasionally reach our contact person (my parents in Washington state) by cell phone.

During an emergency ATMs and computers may not be accessible. Be sure to have copies of important papers and some cash. Many in Florida found ATMs not working and no one accepting credit cards. Be sure that you have appropriate back up systems for your computers. While a safe deposit box is handy for some items, an in home safe is also useful. Be sure to keep your important documents such as insurance policies, powers of attorney, identification, change, deeds, compact discs, bank account information and contact information in a waterproof/fireproof portable container.

Finally, develop a plan for your pets. You should keep copies of your pet's identification records, veterinary records, and a photo of you and your pet. As we saw in Florida, not all public shelters accept pets. The public shelters also fill quickly.

There are legal organizations that provide disaster relief. The American Bar Association web site (www.abanet.org/disaster) was continually providing updated information and resources for the fire victims in the Southern California wildfires. After disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, new information comes online as law firms, pro bono groups, local bar associations and governmental agencies group together to assist victims with legal needs. Additionally, the federal government has websites that can help you as you begin your preparations: www.ready.gov and 1-800-BE-READY.

While the threat of a heavy snow storm next winter may not worry you today, who knows where your travels may take you? As Thomas Fuller stated, "In fair weather prepare for foul." Or perhaps more appropriate is my favorite preparation quote by Olympics runner Frank Shorter, "You don't run twenty-six miles at five minutes a mile on good looks and a secret recipe." Be safe out there!

Kate Lynn is a solo practitioner whose primary office is located in Allentown. Kate can be reached at (610) 435-7770 or on her website at www.katelynnlaw.com. The law firm includes Kate's partner Lori and two unpaid but hard working office dogs, Crockett and Diego.

Disclaimer: The information presented herein is for information only, and should not be construed to be formal legal advice nor the formation of an attorney - client relationship. A qualified legal professional must possess full knowledge of a client's particular facts and circumstances in order to render a valid legal opinion.

FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker

AWARDS FOR FAITH LEADERS

On June 17, PA Diversity Network held its first annual awards ceremony, and among the awards, two were given to community leaders for their impact on the faith communities of the Lehigh Valley. This year's Faith Leadership Awards went to the Rev. Beth Goudy and Patricia (Patti) Mittleman.

Beth Goudy is the pastor at the Metropolitan Community Church where she leads a dynamic congregation 100% affirming of LGBTQ members. Beth is an activist as well, as she is the lead organizer of the Allentown Freedom to Marry Rally at the Lehigh County Courthouse each year, and she is well respected among the local faith community as well. In 2007, Beth was one of the two pastors who was invited to participate in the Inauguration ceremony of the Lehigh County Commissioners, and she has made numerous trips to Harrisburg to meet with legislators to defend LGBT rights.

Patti Mittleman is the Jewish Chaplain at Muhlenberg College, a position she has held for many years. Patti has a long record of being active in LGBT student issues, and the inside of her office door is covered in pride pins. While her main job is to be a spiritual leader to Muhlenberg College's Jewish student's, faculty, and staff - she goes far beyond that in HIV/AIDS prevention and advocacy, LGBT equality, women's issues, and more. Her husband, Rabbi Alan Mittleman of Jewish Theological Seminary was actively involved in the recent decision by the seminary to allow for LGBT ordination, and Patti and her husband have long been advocates of LGBT students at Muhlenberg, JTS, and elsewhere.

Beth and Patti have both distinguished themselves as LGBT affirming faith leaders both inside their respective communities (MCCLV and Muhlenberg College Hillel) and beyond, they are both constantly out in the community, working for equality and inclusion, making all faith spaces more LGBT welcoming.



VALLEY GAY PRESS⁹

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Kate Lynn, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer, Adrian Shanker and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)

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Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown

19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown

Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

(UUCLV) -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV

10 Libraries in Berks County

Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading

Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County),

Reading Community Theatre -

11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading

Allen HS GSA, Reading HS GSA, Gov Mifflin HS GSA

Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network

Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center

Reading Area Community College GSA

48 S. 4th St., Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown

Dreamscape Comics -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

The Woods Campground

Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St. Reading

Sanctuary Counseling -- 515 Old Swede Road, Douglassville

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PDN's membership cycle begins in January.

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To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

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MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

**BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK
TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**



**TRACEY DENTON (CENTER) WITH PDN
BOARDMEMBERS PATRICIA SULLIVAN
AND DONNIE SNYDER**

The Workplace Equality Award:

This award honors individuals from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender community who exemplify strong leadership of a GLBT employee organization operating within the Lehigh Valley or Berks County.

Tracy Denton has a long time history and commitment to GLBT equality in the workplace and the community. She helped to organize GLEE at Air Products and came out to coworkers at the first National Coming Out Day event there. She worked to write the entire Domestic Partnership Benefits plan to present to management at Air Products, and though it has not been put in place yet there, Tracy's plan has served as a model for other local corporations to follow. She also wrote and implemented the original successful plan for HAVEN, and served for several years on the PA-GALA board, helping to write some of the key documents that beat the referendum effort against Allenton's Anti-Discrimination Law. She is a frequent speaker on GLBT issues in the workplace.

UPCOMING MCCLV EVENTS

MCCLV offers Vacation Bible School from June 23-27, 6-8 PM Monday thru Friday. For pre-school to age 12. Call 610-709-8800 for more information or e-mail info@mcclv.org

Gospel Music Night at MCCLV is scheduled for Saturday, July 19 at 7 PM at the church. This will be a wonderful evening of music and fellowship. For more information contact MCCLV's AM Music Director Brian Jones at brian.jones@mcclv.org

MCCLV Church picnic is Saturday, July 26 at Emmaus Community Park starting at Noon. All are welcome! For more information, contact MCCLV's Fellowship Ministry Leader Joleane Ferris at fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org

MCCLV is pleased to announce two great new ministries. Jessica Mitchell has been named Green Team Ministry Leader and will be "greening" the congregation in a variety of ways. Current activities of the Green Team include a CFL light bulb drive, Green Team Tips, recycling awareness and field trips to the Emmaus Farmer's Market. To get involved, contact Jessica at green.team@mcclv.org. Stephanie Schaffer as been named the 20s30s Ministry Leader at MCCLV. Are you in your 20s or 30s and are looking for fun activities and connection with others? Contact Stephanie at 20s30s@mcclv.org

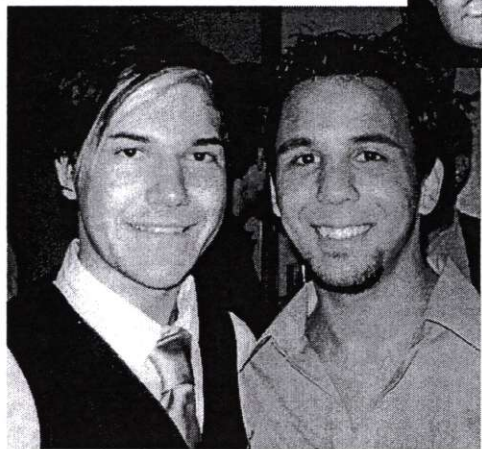
CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

LIZ OUT LOUD © 11*By Liz Bradbury***TRISH'S COLUMN** ©*By Patricia Sullivan***Congratulations to all the award winners.****The Community Health Award:**

This award honors individuals from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender community who promote and sustain the health and vitality of GLBT communities in the Lehigh Valley or Berks County.

Amber Brown - Amber Hartman Brown worked to successfully create Spectrum the GLBTQA Youth outreach group in Reading. She worked on the grant that made it happen and leads every meeting - the kids think she's great - I've seen how they respond to her. And she uses part of the time to help our GLBT youth in Berks County learn about healthy choices, providing safe sex education, and other health programs. And she brings the same kind of healthy youth outreach as a board member to Reading Pride.

Dave Moyer -- Dave's role in the health and welfare of the local GLBT community has been long and far reaching. He's an outspoken knowledgeable voice at the Allentown Health Department and has been a longtime leader of FACT. He received many nominations for this award because of his unwavering commitment to the health of our community.

**AMBER BROWN****DAVE MOYER****CHRIS ALVARO ANTHONY RIZZO****The Young Adult Leadership Award:**

This award honors a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Gay, young adult leader/activist (between the ages of 18 and 25) from the Lehigh Valley or Berks County who has organized activities/events/projects that promote or further GLBT equality or education.

Chris Alvaro is a rising junior at Muhlenberg College and is a board member for the Muhlenberg Gay Straight Alliance. He is also active within the Muhlenberg Theater Association. Chris has coordinated a number of events for the GSA including the 2008 Dragball and a fund raiser for PA Diversity raising \$188.00 as a part of the Zanna Do!t MTA production. He also volunteered for the GSA and PDN for the 2007 Bingo Event.

Anthony Rizzo is a talented writer who uses his words to help educate others on living the gay life. He researched and wrote an article for Gaydar Magazine about the history of the Stonewall Riots and why we celebrate Gay Pride. He has a promising future as GLBT activist.

The Outstanding Community Volunteer Award:

This award honors volunteers from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender community who exhibit strong commitment to the goals and objectives of their organization.

D.J. Landis -- DJ Landis has served every key GLBT organization in the Lehigh Valley Community. And not just as one of those board members who comes to meetings and then leaves without doing anything. She served actively on the Pride Board in the 1990s for 5 years. She was one of the first Board members of PA-GALA, taking every task seriously and completing everything she ever said she would do. She was a key worker against the referendum on Primary Day. And in the last 8 years she has been an essential member of the Metropolitan Community Church- helping to found Tejas, the women's group, running significant efforts, ever present at the Freedom the Marry efforts, and doing real volunteer work at the church every day she can. DJ is exactly the kind of volunteer we all really want - she completes every task she says she will do, and she does a lot of them, but she never volunteers for something she can't finish.

**DJ LANDIS**

POP QUIZ 12

1. The most recent US state to confirm legal same-sex marriage is: A. CA B. OR C. MA D. NJ
2. Marriage licenses will be available in California on _____, 2008. A. June 17th B. July 4th C. September 9th D. November 15th
3. True or False: You can get a marriage license and have a ceremony in California in one day.
4. T or F: To get divorced in CA, at least one member of the couple has to live in CA for 6 months.
5. T or F: Couples need to hurry in CA, because a CA State Constitutional Amendment could pass and overturn the CA Court's Finding.
6. T or F: New York's Governor Patterson has told officials throughout the state that NY must recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states.
7. The most recent country to pass full marriage for same-sex couples is: A. Canada B. Norway C. Spain D. Germany
8. The first couple to be legally married in California will be: (Del Martin and Phyllis Lyons)
9. The couple in question 8 has been together for _____ years. A. 40 B. 48 C. 56 D. 63
10. T or F: Massachusetts will recognize marriages from California.

1. A 2. A 3. T 4. T 5. F 6. T 7. C 8. Del Martin & Phyllis Lyons 9. C 10. T

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

The Celluloid Closet by Vito Russo Harper & Row,

This was a ground breaking book in 1985, and it still is a fascinating, information filled read that is essential to any student of GLBT history. Film historian Vito Russo offers dozens of stories and photos that show how our community has been portrayed on film since the silent era. A significant amount of Russo's research focuses on gay and lesbian portrayals as both sex objects and seductive villains, before the advent of the Hayes office in 1934. The Hayes office effectively "outlawed" the presence of any gay character on film unless they were shown as despicable villains who were ultimately punished, usually dying by the end of the movie.

By the time Russo's book was published in the mid 80s, Hayes office restrictions against sex, crime, and violence had generally faded away, however, Russo shows how film depictions of GLBT people were still showing the intolerant views of pre-war conservative attitudes.

In 1995, Lily Tomlin helped to finance a documentary film version of Russo's research. It not only features dozens of classic movie clips, but contains a series of interviews by Hollywood stars, writers and historians, including openly GLBT people like Farley Granger and Gore Vidal, and supportive allies like Tom Hanks and Susan Sarandon. (It's worth seeing just for Sarandon's take on sex scenes with Catherine Deneuve).

The documentary presents a great deal of information that is not in the book. But readers should note that the book contains a vast amount of material not in the movie. Don't miss either. They are both funny, sexy and thought provoking.


- We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley & Berks County if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal. In the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.
- PA Diversity Network
 - GLBT Infoline
 - PA-GALA
 - Rainbow Families
 - Valley Gay Press
 - Allentown Human Relations Commission
 - Safe Space of Lehigh University
 - PFLAG Lehigh Valley
 - ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women
 - GLORA
 - Pride of the GLV
 - LV Gay Men's Chorus
 - NCC GLBT Student Union
 - The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
 - EQUAL! at Agere
 - Metropolitan Community Church LV
 - OutThere - Cedar Crest
 - 9th Street Shelter Allentown
 - LV Community Action Committee
 - GLEE at Air Products
 - FACT
 - AIDS Outreach
 - The Unitarian Universalist Church LV
 - GLOSS
 - LEPOCO
 - GLSN of Dun & Bradstreet
 - AIDS Services Center
 - Theatre Outlet
 - Integrity - Bethlehem
 - The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
 - Civic Theater
 - 19th Street Theatre
 - The Latin Alliance
 - The Enigma Players
 - New Covenant Family Ministries
 - Properties of Merit
 - Allentown City Democratic Committee
 - Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
 - Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance
 - Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley
 - Muhlenberg Theater Association
 - Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley
 - Touchstone Theater
 - Congregation Am Haskalah
 - The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance
 - The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown
 - United Friends School Quakertown
 - LV Transsexual Coalition
 - Lehigh Valley Transmen
 - GLEF (Gay & Lesbian Episcopalians & Friends)
 - Old Allentown Preservation Association

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Distelfink© 6/08 by Ruby Zebu 'Deja Vue'

In the 1930s Eleanor Roosevelt championed the effort to require indoor plumbing for all housing. Conservatives rejected the idea insisting: It would be harder to tell who's poor and the middle class will feel less privileged.

These days conservatives reject the idea of same-sex marriage, saying marriage should only be for one man and one woman, and insisting same-sex marriage will lessen the value of opposite sex-marriage.



CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG